

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07  
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15  
USIA-06 /059 W  
-----111985 240626Z /10

R 232306Z JAN 78  
FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6068  
INFO AMCONSUL MONTREAL  
AMCONSUL QUEBEC BY POUCH

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E.O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: PINT, CA  
SUBJECT: QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN OPENS  
WITH GARNEAU-RYAN CONFRONTATION

1. ONLY ANNOUNCED CANDIDATES FOR QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY  
LEADERSHIP, CLAUDE RYAN, FORMER EDITOR OF LE DEVOIR,  
AND RAYMOND GARNEAU, FORMER FINANCE MINISTER IN BOURASSA  
GOVERNMENT, MET AT FIRST PUBLIC CONFRONTATION JANUARY 22  
IN HULL, QUEBEC. MEETING WAS FIRST OF NINE REGIONAL  
SESSIONS LEADING UP TO LEADERSHIP CONVENTION APRIL 14-15  
IN QUEBEC CITY.

2. ON SUBSTANCE, DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TWO CANDIDATES WAS  
NOT GREAT. BOTH ADVOCATED CONSTITUTIONAL REFORM AS  
SOLUTION TO UNITY CRISIS AND EACH DEFENDED RIGHTS OF  
MINORITY LANGUAGE GROUPS IN QUEBEC. RYAN CHARGED THAT  
PARTI QUEBECOIS (PQ) ELECTION WAS DIRECT RESULT OF LOSS OF  
CONFIDENCE IN QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY. HE STRESSED THAT HE  
COULD FILL LEADERSHIP VACUUM AND SUCCESSFULLY LEAD LIBERAL  
FORCES IN REFERENDUM AND PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS. GARNEAU,  
BY CONTRAST, STRESSED HIS LONG TIES WITH LIBERAL PARTY  
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AND HIS PREVIOUS CABINET EXPERIENCE. GARNEAU TACTIC  
WAS OBVIOUSLY DESIGNED TO HIGHLIGHT RYAN'S LACK OF POLITI-  
CAL EXPERIENCE AND SOLID LIBERAL CREDENTIALS.

3. STYLE RATHER THAN SUBSTANCE PROVIDED MAIN CONTRAST.  
GARNEAU, WHO IS 43, PRESENTED IMAGE OF AGGRESSIVE AND EX-  
PERIENCED YOUNG POLITICIAN AS HE LEVELLED TWO-FISTED

ATTACK ON PQ. RYAN PROJECTED SERIOUS, AUSTERE IMAGE WITH MORE PHILOSOPHICAL SPEECH CONTENT.

4. COMMENT: AUDIENCE OF 600-700 CLEARLY FAVORED RYAN AND REPEATEDLY INTERRUPTED HIS SPEECH WITH OVATIONS. AUDIENCE REACTION WAS RATHER SURPRISING SINCE RYAN READ MOST OF SPEECH WITH NO EFFORT AT HISTORICALS. RYAN'S POPULARITY MAY HAVE BEEN DUE TO UNUSUAL COMPOSITION OF THIS AUDIENCE. HULL IS LOCATED IN NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION WHERE FEDERALISM IS QUITE STRONG, EVEN AMONG FRANCOPHONES, AND ELECTORATE IS GENERALLY WELL-EDUCATED. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN, IN EMBASSY VIEW, WHETHER RYAN WILL MAINTAIN AUDIENCE ENTHUSIASM IN RURAL AND/OR WORKING CLASS AREAS OF QUEBEC. ENDERS

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** POLITICAL LEADERS, POLITICAL PARTIES, PARTY SCHISMS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 23 jan 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1978OTTAWA00351  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
**Film Number:** D780034-1141  
**Format:** TEL  
**From:** OTTAWA  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
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**Legacy Key:** link1978/newtext/t19780134/aaaabceo.tel  
**Line Count:** 76  
**Litigation Code IDs:**  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 4afd24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 05 may 2005  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** N/A  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 3730943  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** QUEBEC LIBERAL PARTY LEADERSHIP CAMPAIGN OPENS WITH GARNEAU-RYAN CONFRONTATION  
**TAGS:** PINT, CA, (RYAN, CLAUDE), (GARNEAU, RAYMOND)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**vdkgvwkey:** odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS\_Docs/4afd24e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
20 Mar 2014  
**Markings:** Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014